

## VERMONT CENTER FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

### FY 12 Strategic Plan Overview for House & Senate Appropriation Committees

Friday, February 4, 2011

The Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services is mandated by state statute (13 VSA § 5361) to administer the Victims Compensation Program, the Victim Assistance Program and the state's Restitution Unit. The Center is also charged with the administration of several state and federal grant programs whose funds are intended to expand the provision of services to victims of crime and to improve the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The **Victims Compensation Program** provides financial assistance to victims of crime who have experienced a financial loss as a direct result of a crime. Victims must report the crime to law enforcement and law enforcement must make a finding of probable cause that a crime was committed in order for the victim to be eligible for compensation. The program covers uninsured losses that include medical, counseling, lost wages, funeral expenses, relocation, crime scene clean up, and other types of crime-related losses. The program monitors and tracks the number of new claims filed each year by type of crime and type of loss (see attached sheet "Victim Compensation Program"). The program evaluates the services it provides through a Victim Satisfaction Survey, sent to every crime victim who has applied for compensation. Staff review surveys returned and the feedback is entered into a database for analysis.

#### Objectives for FY 2012:

1. The program plans to expand its outreach and training to victim advocates, hospitals, community justice centers, diversion programs, DCF, mental health programs and law enforcement agencies in five counties: Rutland, Washington, Bennington, Chittenden and Orange. The training will review the program's statutory requirements, policies and procedures. The goal of this training is to increase the number of "eligible" victims and to decrease the number of "ineligible" victims who apply for compensation.
2. The program has also made changes to its case management system and will work toward reducing the number of days it takes to process a victim's claim. Our initial goal is to reduce the time by 3 days.

The **Victim Assistance Program** maintains 22 FTE Victim Advocate positions in the state's attorney's offices in each of Vermont's 14 counties. These Advocates provide assistance to crime victims throughout the criminal justice process and act as a liaison with the state's attorneys and other criminal justice agencies. The services and duties of Victim Advocates are defined in statute (13 VSA § 5304).

#### Objectives for FY 2012:

The Center will continue to work with the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys to accomplish the following:

1. To track and report to the Center the number of victims served by the program by type of crime so that the Department is in compliance with federal VOCA reporting requirements.
2. To provide an annual report to the Center with caseload data for each Victim Advocate so the Center can assess the allocation of resources to the program.
3. To require the Victim Advocates to send out a Victim Satisfaction Survey to every crime victim served once the case is closed. Victims are provided with a postage paid envelope addressed to the Center so that the surveys can be returned to the Center who will input this feedback into a database for analysis. This information will be used to evaluate the services provided by the program.

The **Restitution Unit** is responsible for the payment and collection of restitution in the state. Restitution Judgment Orders ordered by criminal court are sent to the Unit and payment to individual victims is advanced from the Restitution Fund up to a \$10,000 cap and then collected from the offender to reimburse the fund. The Unit also collects restitution on behalf of business victims and individual victims with orders over \$10,000 who receive the restitution they are owed as the offender pays the Unit. The Unit tracks the number of individual victims who receive advance payment from the fund by amount. It also tracks its collection rate on restitution orders by fiscal year for both individual and business victims (see attached sheet "Vermont Restitution Unit").

Objectives for 2012:

1. The Restitution Unit's goal for FY 12 will be to collect at the same level as we collect in FY11, in light of the current economic situation in Vermont.
2. The Unit will work toward reducing the number of days it takes to process a victim's claim from the Restitution Fund. The current average processing time is approximately 50 days; the goal for FY 12 will be to reduce that by 5 days.

The Center administers a number of **federal and state grant programs**. Please refer to the Center's FY 2012 Grant Itemization Form for more detail. There are 4 federal formula grant programs: Victims of Crime Act Assistance and Compensation Grants, STOP Violence Against Women grant, Sexual Assault Services Program and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. All of these grant programs require the Center to collect and report on measurable outcomes in order to maintain continued funding. In addition, the Center has 3 federal discretionary grant programs: New Neighbors project, Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse and the Grant to Encourage Arrest. These grants also require the Center to collect and report on measurable outcomes that are identified in the grant application.

The Center also administers state grants for the 15 member programs of the VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, 9 Supervised Visitation Programs, and 6 Child Advocacy Centers. A combination of general funds and special funds are used for these programs.

The Center currently has 44 sub-grantees who receive these federal and state grants. One of the Center's goals is to increase the number of victims of crime served from under-served populations. Last year, programs reported serving 212 elders, 405 minorities and 1,104 people with disabilities.

Objectives for 2012:

1. To increase by 5% the number of victims of crime served from under-served populations.
2. To identify first steps for a paperless grant system for sub-grantees and explore grants management systems that are viable for the Center given our IT capabilities
3. To provide training and technical assistance to state-funded victim service programs in order to build capacity within these programs to identify and track measurable outcomes for the services they provide with state funding.

## Vermont Victims Compensation Program

Total Number of New Claims Received in FY10	% of total	
Assault	101	21
Homicide*	19	4
Adult Sexual Assault/Sexual Offense	92	19
Child Sexual Abuse/ <u>Sexual Offense</u>	27	6
Domestic Violence	168	34
DUI	18	4
<u>Other Crimes</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>12</u>
Total	486	100%

### **Total Paid by Type of Crime:**

Assault	\$ 162,795.40
Homicide	51,783.76
Adult Sexual Assault/Sexual Offense	154,578.73
Child Sexual Abuse/Sexual Offense	20,631.15
Domestic Violence	174,231.17
DUI	10,882.37
Other Crimes**	59,618.38
<u>Sexual Assault Program</u>	<u>124,162.73</u>
<b>Total/Type of Crime</b>	<b>\$758,683.69</b>

### **Total Paid by Type of Expense:**

Counseling	\$ 236,235.98
Medical	186,606.70
Dental	26,524.41
Funeral	27,082.41
Loss of Wages	85,378.40
Sexual Assault Exams/Sexual Assault Counseling	98,714.76
HIV Services	20,512.62
Other Expenses***	<u>77,628.41</u>
	758,683.69
Restitution Ordered to Comp Program	<u>-63,261.41</u>
<b>Total/Type of Expense</b>	<b>\$695,422.28</b>

\*This figure does not represent the number of homicides that occurred in Vermont in FY10, but rather the number of family members of homicide victims who filed claims with the Program.

\*\*Other crimes could include stalking, kidnapping, reckless endangerment, unlawful acts, robbery/burglary, unlawful restraint, vehicular crimes, theft, fraud, and arson, disorderly conduct, abuse of vulnerable adult, cruelty to animals.

\*\*\*Other expenses could include mileage/gas, rent/relocation, safety/security, travel/transportation, crime scene clean up, childcare, and miscellaneous expenses(pet care/injury/death).

## Vermont Restitution

	# of Orders Individual victims	Amount Ordered	Collected as of 2/3/2011	% Collected
FY05	1,670	\$1,753,183.25	\$900,968.03	51.39%
FY06	898	\$924,795.93	\$431,733.15	46.68%
FY07	907	\$972,872.05	\$324,992.48	33.41%
FY08	1,062	\$1,118,786.23	\$289,882.80	25.91%
FY09	809	\$890,223.38	\$203,302.08	22.84%
FY10	684	\$378,405.96	\$115,647.53	30.56%
Totals	6,030	\$6,038,266.80	\$2,266,526.07	37.54%

	# of Orders Business/over \$10,000	Amount Ordered	Collected as of 2/3/2011	% Collected
FY05	59	\$811,904.27	\$192,096.96	23.66%
FY06	991	\$1,655,918.72	\$374,276.88	22.60%
FY07	888	\$1,314,036.03	\$387,238.06	29.47%
FY08	766	\$1,128,320.56	\$245,263.94	21.74%
FY09	763	\$1,271,668.91	\$166,395.73	13.08%
FY10	713	\$865,243.97	\$182,821.20	21.13%
Totals	4,180	\$7,047,092.46	\$1,548,092.77	21.97%

<b>Overall totals</b>	<b>10,210</b>	<b>\$13,085,359.26</b>	<b>\$3,814,618.84</b>	<b>29.15%</b>
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